Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

3 December 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

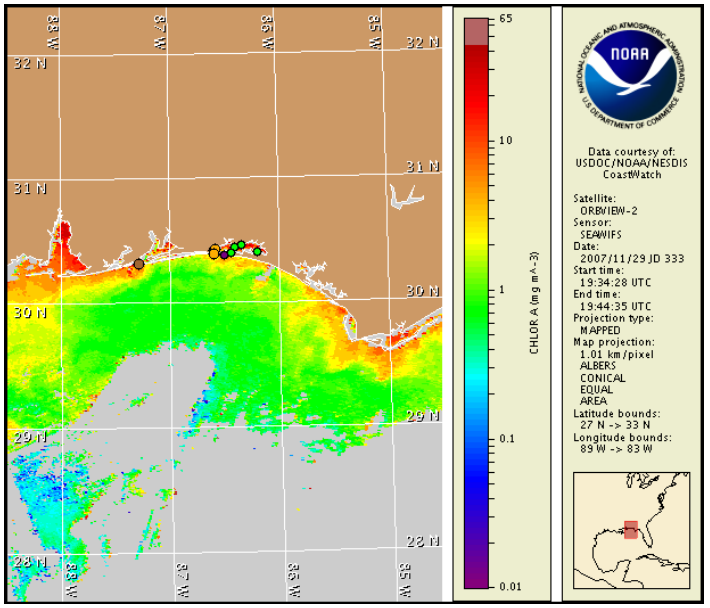
Last bulletin: November 29, 2007

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from Okaloosa County, Florida to Mobile County, Alabama and in Harrison County, Mississippi. In bay regions of Okaloosa County, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama, patchy moderate impacts are possible today through Thursday. In coastal regions of Okaloosa County, Florida, no impacts are expected today through Wednesday and patchy, very low impacts possible on Thursday. In coastal regions of Escambia County, Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama and island regions of Harrison County, Mississippi, patchy, very low impacts possible today through Wednesday and patchy low impacts possible on Thursday. No impacts are expected elsewhere in northwest Florida, Alabama or Mississippi through Thursday, December 6.

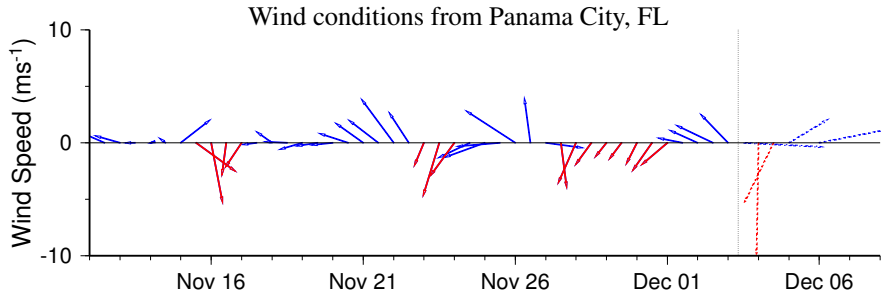
Analysis

A harmful algal bloom persists in patches from Okaloosa County, Florida to Harrison County, Mississippi. In imagery from November 29th, chlorophyll levels remain elevated up to 9μg/L along the coast of eastern Okaloosa (central point: 30°22'20"N 86°30'3"W) and >10μg/L alongshore and out to 10 km offshore of western Escambia County (southern extent: 30°12'35"N 87°22'29"W). Chlorophyll levels are generally 4μg/L alongshore from Escambia County, Florida to Harrison County, Mississippi. Continued sampling is recommended along the coast and in bay regions. Reports of dead fish and respiratory irritation have been received from Okaloosa County over the past few days. Forecasted conditions should minimize impacts along the coast through Wednesday, with an increased potential for bay impacts today. Upwelling favorable winds may increase likelihood of intensification in coastal regions. ~Fenstermacher, Urizar



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from November 25 to 29 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



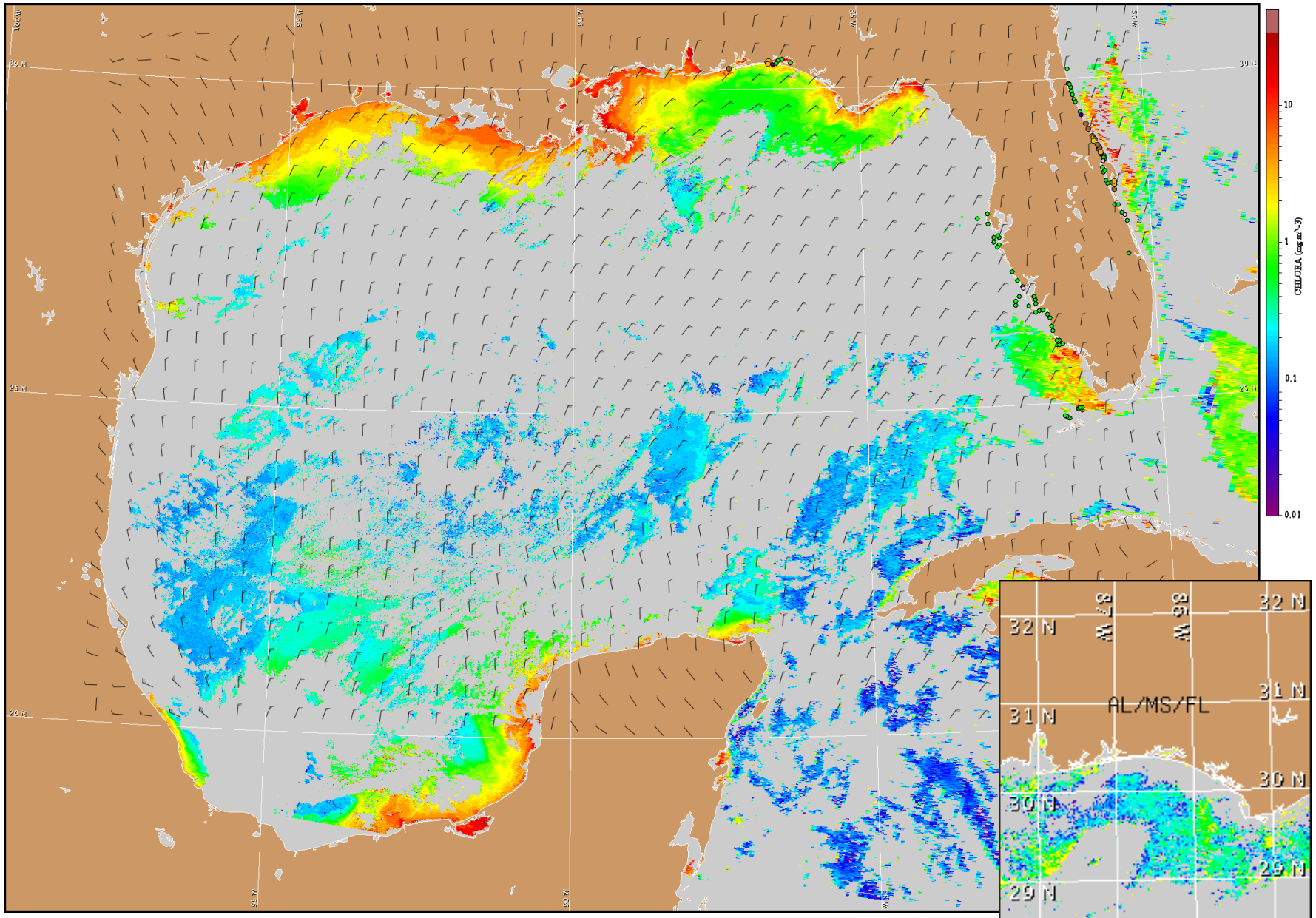
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

NW Florida and Alabama: Strong northerlies today (15-25 knts; 8-13 m/s) decreasing in strength on Tuesday (5-15 knts; 3-8 m/s). Northwesterly to westerlies Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday (5-15 knts; 3-8 m/s). Easterlies to southerlies on Thursday (10-15 knts; 5-8 m/s).

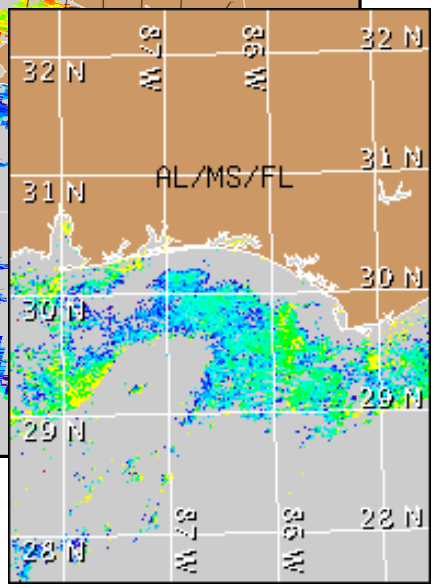
Mississippi: Strong north to northeasterlies today (10-25 knts; 5-13 m/s) followed by northerlies clocking to westerlies on Tuesday (5-15 knts; 3-8 m/s). Variable winds on Wednesday and southeast to southerlies on Thursday (5-15 knts; 3-8 m/s).

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

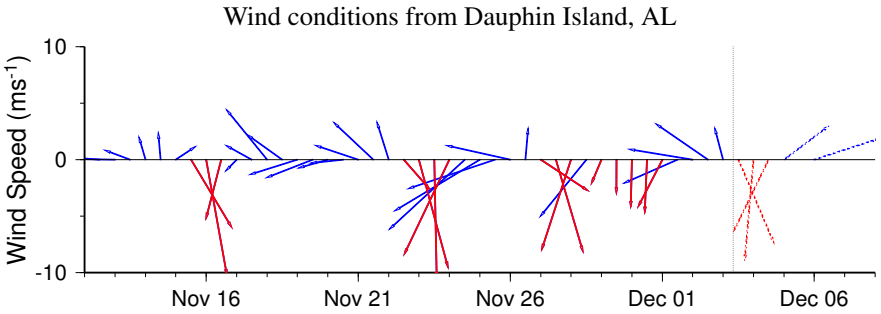
1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for December 4, 2007 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from November 25 to 29 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).


Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL
Wind Speed (ms-1)
10
0
-10
Nov 16
Nov 21
Nov 26
Dec 01
Dec 06